



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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September 2020 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

As we move into fall, we wanted to share some timely and important opportunities to support climate action in your communities and at the state level in the coming weeks. Find more information below about the following:

- **Vermont House Overwhelmingly Passes Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act** – Bill Heads to Governor Scott
- **Capstone Community Action Launches Mileage Smart Program** – [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **Join Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman for a Virtual Brown Bag Lunch Discussion of the Climate Crisis, Wednesday September 15th at Noon** – [Click here to RSVP.](#)
- **Registration for the Energy Action Network's (EAN) Summit Now Open – October 1st and 2nd** – [Click here to register.](#)
- **Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) Launches Vermont Community Leadership Network.** Read much more below...
- **Button Up Vermont Campaign Underway!** - Check Out the [Weekly "Weatherization Wednesday" videos on social media.](#)
- **Save the Date - Transportation and Climate Initiative Announces Public Webinars - Sept. 16 and 29**

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Johanna Miller, VECAN Coordinator and VNRC Energy Program Director
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Vermont House Overwhelmingly Passes Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act – Bill Heads to Governor Scott's Desk

We've got fantastic news to share! On Wednesday, the Vermont House passed the [Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act \(H.688\)](#) with 102 representatives taking a stand for real climate action in Vermont.

The 102-45 vote margin means that we expect there will be enough votes to override if Governor Scott decides to veto this pollution-reducing, job-creating bill.

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We are always looking for great stories of local action for our blog, social media and as helpful resources for our network. Please consider sending along anything you or others have accomplished or are working on by responding to this email or emailing abaad@vnrc.org

About Us

VECAN is a network of statewide Vermont organizations helping communities across the Green Mountain State to reduce energy costs and climate impacts through conservation, increased energy efficiency and conversion to renewable energy sources.

VECAN's mission is to start, support and strengthen town energy committees.

Committee Changes?

Help us keep our network up to date! Email changes in committee



The Global Warming Solutions Act puts in place a solid foundation to hold the state accountable to its commitment to reduce climate pollution and build resilience for the disruptive changes that we know are coming. It ensures that the state centers the needs of rural, low-income, and vulnerable Vermonters at the forefront of our planning decisions. And, as we begin to rebuild our economy from the ravages of the pandemic,

it enables Vermont to take advantage of the significant job creating opportunities that climate action offers.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has proven, we ignore science at our peril. This week's progress is the near-final step forward on ensuring Vermont finally does our part to combat the climate crisis.

[Find a full press release about this victory here.](#)

Capstone Community Action Launches Mileage Smart Program – Aims to Help Low Income Vermonters Afford More Efficient Vehicles



Capstone Community Action recently launched their Mileage Smart Program to help low income Vermonters afford more fuel efficient (and cheaper to run and maintain) vehicles. The program provides an incentive worth 25% of the vehicle cost up to \$5000 to income eligible Vermonters.

You can find more information about the program at the [Frequently Asked Questions page of the website](#), where you will also find information about eligibility and a link to apply. Investing in a high-efficiency car that gets more miles to the gallon saves money at the pump. Additionally, fully-electric vehicles, while sometimes higher priced up front, require less maintenance over their lifetime, resulting in even more long-term savings. This innovative program is aimed to make it easier for people to save money and reduce climate pollution by lowering the upfront cost of more efficient vehicles.

Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman Hosting Virtual Brown Bag Lunch Discussion of the Climate Crisis - Sept. 16th at Noon



Grab your lunch and join Lt. Governor David Zuckerman for a conversation about the climate crisis, renewable energy projects, and the Global Warming Solutions Act.

The event will start with a legislative update on climate issues by Johanna Miller from VNRC and an overview of David's climate mitigation, green jobs and renewable energy plans.

Guests are invited to share stories from their communities, ask questions and bring their ideas for growing a greener and more

sustainable Vermont.

[RSVP to attend at this link.](#)

Register for the Energy Action Network's Annual Summit – October 1st and 2nd

Registration is now open for the Energy Action Network's Annual Summit taking place October 1 and 2. The Summit will be held virtually over two partial-day sessions.

The Summit will feature the presentation of pitches to rapidly, cost-effectively, and equitably reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution, and well as offer an update of the status

leadership or contact info to abaad@vnrc.org



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of energy transformation in Vermont and opportunities to network. EAN is using a virtual platform called Hopin to host the Summit. In the lead up to the event, EAN staff will share instructions, videos, and host several brief trainings sessions to help orient attendees to the virtual platform.

In recognition of the current economic crisis, EAN is offering three ticket prices: a no-judgement free ticket, a standard ticket, and an option to cover the cost of two tickets to help support the attendance of someone who is unable to pay. Don't

hesitate to reach out to Carolyn Wesley at cwesley@eanvt.org with any questions. You can find more information at <https://www.eanvt.org/events-and-initiatives/2020-summit/>.

Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) Launches "Vermont Community Leadership Network"



Recently, the Vermont Council on Rural Development Launched an exciting new initiative, the Vermont Community Leadership Network. This network is designed to connect and support local leaders as they build local projects, organizations, and systems that serve their communities and Vermont's urgent and long-term needs. The network will kick-off with a series of free online workshops every other week starting with one focused on hosting effective meetings on September 15.

VCRD has also published a brand new Community Leadership Guide. The guide shares tools, strategies, and resources for advancing leadership and community projects. Click the following link to become part of the network, register for workshops, and access the Resource Guide: <https://www.vtrural.org/leadership>.

Button Up Vermont Campaign Underway



This month official launch of the Button Up Vermont Campaign!

This year, the campaign features [Weekly "Weatherization Wednesday"](#) online video series featuring trivia, Q&As, DIY-videos, and tips for weatherization in a short 20-30 minute blast every week throughout September-November.

Additionally, there are several local workshops being organized by local energy committees in partnership with their Regional

Planning Commission. Efficiency Vermont is offering Free *Virtual* Home Energy Visits across the state for participating communities. Participating communities will be provided materials, marketing, and help explaining Efficiency Vermont incentives and DIY-project offers.

Finally, there is an exciting opportunity to participate in a statewide fundraising effort that will provide direct financial support for low income weatherization needs, with money going to support Weatherization Agencies throughout Vermont.

For questions about [this year's Button Up Campaign](#), contact Efficiency Vermont Community Engagement Manager Becca White at bwhite@veic.org or (802)-734-3227, or visit buttonupvermont.org.

Upcoming Webinars to Discuss Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) - September 16th and 29th



Register now for a [TCI webinar on program design, modeling, and the implications of COVID-19 on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 9 - 11 AM.](#)

This webinar will feature updates on the development of a regional low-carbon transportation policy, including presentations on new modeling results and discussion of how a regional TCI program could effectively manage a wide range of uncertainties, including those related to COVID-19. The webinar will also provide an opportunity for further public input regarding modeling and how the program could be designed to ensure participating jurisdictions achieve environmental, economic, and social equity goals.

[Register now for the Sept. 16 webinar.](#)

Save the Date: TCI webinar on ensuring environmental justice and equity in a regional low-carbon transportation program Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 4 - 6 PM.

This webinar will focus on proposed measures intended to ensure the program fosters equity for overburdened and underserved communities, building on states' longstanding commitment to designing a program that benefits all communities, including those on the frontlines of air pollution and climate change impacts.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fact that racial disparities in exposure to air pollution are reflected in disproportionate impacts of the coronavirus and other health threats. The TCI jurisdictions have received extensive input from a wide range of interested people and organizations on ways states could design and implement a regional low-carbon transportation program that advances equity and environmental justice. Informed by that input and further outreach, TCI state officials will provide updates on proposed strategies to ensure that overburdened and underserved communities benefit from investments and reduced air pollution and have opportunities for meaningful engagement in shaping TCI commitments and implementation moving forward.

Details and registration information for the September 29 webinar will be available soon on the TCI website. [Please RSVP using this link to be notified when the registration link is available.](#)

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